

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10
Columbia River Compact
September 16, 2005

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem Select Areas Commercial Treaty-Indian Commercial
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon and Steelhead

- The "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall season fisheries.
- The TAC submitted a Biological Assessment to NMFS regarding fisheries covered in the "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon". NMFS issued a Biological Opinion on May 9, 2005.
- The 2005-2007 Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild Group B index steelhead to no greater than 15%. All non-Indian fisheries outside the Snake River Basin will be managed to not exceed a 2% impact rate on wild Group B index steelhead.
- Upriver fall chinook escapement goals include 7,000 adult fall chinook (4,000 females) to Spring Creek Hatchery and 43,500 adult fall chinook (natural and hatchery included) for spawning escapement above McNary Dam.
- Ocean and lower river fisheries will be managed to provide for a Bonneville Dam escapement of at least 50% of the upriver coho salmon return.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate of less than 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.
- Based on the Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC and NOAA Fisheries' Biological Opinion, the freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 6.5% of the run entering the Columbia River.
- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2005 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2005 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ URB fall Chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated preseason at 50% (4.125%) to the sport fishery and 50% (4.125%) to the commercial fishery. The Columbia River Compact/Joint States will use this URB impact allocation as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual URB impacts in the fisheries may differ from preseason estimates based on actual fishery catches, stock composition, and run size updates. The *U. S. v. Oregon* TAC will update the URB run size beginning in mid-September.
- ✓ **Expectations for the commercial fishery include:**
 - Late fall fishery to begin the week of September 19th. The coho fishery will generally occur in Zones 1-3. The fishery will target coho during daylight hours with 6-inch maximum mesh nets. The fishing boundary will be the Longview Bridge during the week of Sept 19th and the Kalama River during the week of September 26th. The fishery will likely occur 2-3 days per week. Catch expectations include 8,100 Chinook and 25,000 coho.
 - Chinook fisheries to begin the week of September 19th. A Chinook target fishery in all of Zones 1-5 is desired and expected to occur for one period, sometime during this first week. Catch expectation is about 7,000 Chinook.
 - Chinook target fisheries will then occur in the areas that are not open for coho (primarily in Zones 4-5), with large mesh (8-inch or 9-inch minimum). The fishery will likely occur 1-2 days per week. Catch expectation for all September Chinook target fishing is 12,000 Chinook.
 - The late September Chinook harvest will be determined by the mid-September URB runsize update and the actual URB impacts remaining. Goal is to provide target Chinook fisheries in all five Zones if possible. Fishing areas and days may change based on inseason updates.
 - October fishing will likely be limited by expected poor returns of late coho. Fishery is expected to occur 2 days during the first two weeks of October. Expected catch is 600-700 Chinook and 2,000 coho. Chinook fisheries will occur if any URB impacts remain.
 - The dates, areas, mesh restrictions and catch expectations are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events will likely change many of these expectations.
 - Sturgeon management will be consistent with sturgeon protocol adopted at the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing.

Sturgeon

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2003-2005 are guided by a Joint State management plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups.
- At the December 16, 2004 hearing the Compact adopted protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2005.

Protocol for Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2005

- Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,600 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,000 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
- Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
- Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
- Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible.
- Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
- Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season-specific catch guidelines or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.
- Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers, landings and possession limits will be in the form of vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.

Water Conditions

Flow Updates

- Flow, as measured at Bonneville Dam, was stable in August, ranging between 115-179 kcfs during the month. Average flows during August generally range between 125-168 kcfs.
- As typically occurs during September, flows have dropped significantly, ranging between 79-122 kcfs. Flows during early September typically range between 102-120 kcfs.

Temperature Updates

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically increase rapidly through the month of July to a peak during the first half of August. Temperatures typically decline slowly during the last half of August and early September.
- Water temperatures were elevated during the month of August, ranging between 70-72°F. On average, August water temperatures typically fluctuate between 61-71°F.
- Water temperatures have been fluctuating between 68-70°F during the first 14 days of September. Water temperatures during early September typically range between 62-69°F.

STOCK STATUS

Summer Steelhead

- The 2005 Skamania index return of 12,719 was 83% of the preseason forecast of 15,300.

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>						
		14-Sep Daily	Cumulative Total Through September 14			
			2005	2004	2003	2002
Bonneville	Group A Index	NA	NA	220,810	279,774	304,585
	Group B Index	NA	NA	15,068	22,439	61,730
Total				235,878	302,213	366,315
The Dalles		5,679	122,619	148,388	145,918	227,805
John Day		5,411	102,953	129,194	126,324	167,077
McNary		3,370	73,197	96,032	82,343	114,497
Priest Rapids		NA	NA	13,255	12,060	12,257
Ice Harbor		1,628	37,208	64,077	48,138	69,487
Lower Granite		934	21,175	25,255	19,545	41,199

- As of September 14, 50% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam.
- Sampling at Priest Rapids Dam began July 12, and through September 1, wild fish have comprised 29% of the passage over Priest Rapids Dam.
- Preseason forecasts were for 245,500 Group A index steelhead (57,500 wild fish) and 47,800 Group B index steelhead (9,400 wild fish).
- Passage to date indicates that steelhead returns are tracking slightly less than preseason forecasts.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year (s)	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number		Number		Total	Number		Number		Total
	Wild	%	Hatchery	%		Wild	%	Hatchery	%	
1984-1989 Ave	64,900	28%	163,300	72%	228,200	13,500	20%	54,400	80%	67,900
1990-1994 Ave	36,300	21%	133,500	79%	169,800	7,500	19%	31,800	81%	39,300
1995-1999 Ave	34,800	20%	140,000	80%	174,800	3,400	13%	22,800	87%	26,200
2000	63,600	29%	153,100	71%	216,700	8,400	21%	32,500	79%	40,900
2001	137,200	27%	377,900	73%	515,100	12,100	14%	74,300	86%	86,400
2002	87,300	27%	235,800	73%	323,100	32,300	25%	97,600	75%	129,900
2003	66,400	22%	238,100	78%	304,500	6,500	17%	32,000	83%	38,500
2004	60,400	24%	190,200	76%	250,600	9,200	25%	28,200	75%	37,400

- Based on counts through September 15, the TAC downgraded Group A and Group B steelhead run sizes to 222,700 Group A (including 52,200 wild) and 43,400 Group B (including 8,500 wild) for a total 266,100.
- A return of 266,100 summer steelhead to the Columbia River would be similar to the ten-year average of 280,800.

Fall Chinook

- The 2005 preseason forecast for fall Chinook salmon returns included 671,400 adults, comprised of 477,200 brights (71%) and 194,200 tules (29%).
- The McNary Dam escapement goal of 43,500 adults has been achieved for the 22nd consecutive year with a total count of 52,355 adult fall Chinook through September 13.
- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 15 to determine tule/bright stock separation with adult passage through September 15 including 213,728 brights (74%) and 75,229 tules (26%). Typically about 75% of the bright passage and 86% of the tule passage occurs prior to September 15.
- Based on counts through September 15, the TAC updated the river mouth run size to 563,000 adults, including 389,600 (69%) brights and 173,400 (31%) tules.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>						
		Sept. 14 Daily	Cumulative through September 14			Ten Year Average
			2005	2004	2003	
Bonneville	Bright	9,905	213,728	280,664		243,778
	Tules	3,158	75,229	151,372		70,923
	Total Counts	13,063	288,957	432,036		314,701
The Dalles		6,276	132,107	177,283	171,144	110,693
John Day		9,724	93,443	16,336	94,471	70,733
McNary		3,274	55,629	78,260	64,971	47,676
Priest Rapids		NA	9,858	19,316	19,738	14,599
Ice Harbor		686	6,149	10,822	7,684	4,441

- Based on dam counts to date, the URB and MCB forecasts were updated to 280,000 and 76,700 adults at the river mouth and the BPH forecast was updated to 95,000 adults at the river mouth

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>			
Stock	2004 Return	2005 Preseason Forecast	09/15/2005 Update
LRH	108,900	78,400	78,400
LRW	22,300	21,400	21,400
BPH	175,300	115,800	95,000
URB	363,500	354,600	280,000
SRW	--	--	--
MCB	121,900	89,700	76,700
LRB	2,200	2,400	2,400
SAB	7,100	11,500	11,500
Total	799,000	671,400	563,000

- A total of 11,641 Chinook, including 6,000 males, 5,200 females, and 441 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 13, which exceeds the escapement goals of 7,000 adults and 4,000 females.

- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery through September 15 have met the minimum hatchery escapement goal of 2,000 adults, (1,500 females and 500 males) and have been comprised of 1,511 males, 1,713 females, and 11 jacks.
- Returns to Bonneville Hatchery through September 14 include 6,353 bright and 859 tule fall chinook, and 7,139 coho.
- Returns of jack fall chinook to date have been less than the recent 10-year average with 10,300 brights and 644 tules (including adult-size jacks) counted at Bonneville Dam through September 15. Typically 52% of the bright jacks and 91% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam by September 15.

FISHERY UPDATES

Buoy 10 Sport Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery (Columbia mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. The daily salmon bag limit was two fish, of which one could be a chinook.
- Through September 12, angler trips totaled 52,400 with 9,100 chinook and 6,700 coho kept.

Mainstem Sport Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River opened to summer steelhead angling May 16 below the I-5 Bridge and June 16 from the I-5 Bridge to the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington.
- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. Non-adipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day with only one chinook per day allowed downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- An estimated 3,200 chinook were landed during the month of August from 24,000 angler trips.
- Effort was high during September with 1,900 boats counted on Saturday September 3 and 1,000 boats on Wednesday September 7.
- Chinook fishing has been very good overall with catch rates exceeding 1.4 chinook kept per boat river wide on several days during the first two weeks of September.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for September 1-13 is 11,400 (13,200 projected through September 17) from 39,400 angler trips (63,300 season total).
- An estimated 1,800 marked steelhead were retained and 800 unmarked steelhead were released during the month of August with 125 steelhead kept and 55 released during September 1-13.
- The fishery is scheduled to close to Chinook retention effective 12:01 Sunday September 18. The mainstem fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam is estimated to be 30% complete as of September 14.

August Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Preseason modeling projected landings of 5,800 chinook, including 800 URB's (14%) during the early August commercial fishery and 7,300 chinook, including 2,700 URB's (37%) during the mid- and late August fisheries. The commercial white sturgeon protocol allocated 2,600 white sturgeon to August fisheries
- A total of eight fishing periods occurred between August 4-26.

<i>August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings</i>					
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Aug 4-12	457	4,707	24	1,129	28
Aug 14-26	363	6,723	63	965	4
Total	820	11,430	87	2,094	32

- Based on CWT data, chinook landings during August fisheries were comprised of 54% brights and 46% tules as compared to preseason expectations of 59% brights and 41% tules.
- An estimated 3,924 URB adult fall chinook were landed during August fisheries, which is slightly greater than the preseason expectation of 3,470.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The fall commercial season in Select Areas began in Youngs Bay with one 30-36 hour period weekly during the first four weeks of August. An additional 3-day fishing period occurred from 6 AM Tuesday August 30 through 6 AM Friday September 2. The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week (effective noon Tuesday September 6) through the end of October. Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery included 4,300 Select Area Bright (SAB) fall chinook and 32,000 coho.
- Fishing periods in the other Select Areas began August 30 with three 12-hour nightly fishing periods weekly during the first two weeks. These areas are currently open four nights (hours vary by site) per week through October 28 with a preseason catch expectation of 18,000 coho. Site-specific coho catch expectations are for 9,000 in Tongue Point, 2,000 in Blind Slough, 6,000 in Deep River, and 1,000 in Steamboat Slough.

<i>2005 Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries Update (through 9/8/04)</i>							
Stock	Early August	Mid-Late August	Select Areas ^a				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB	87	3,806					
BUB/LRB	1,172	0					
PUB	86	178					
BPH	479	609					
LRH	2,324	1,624					
LRW	0	47					
SAB	424	182					
Others	135	40					
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,707</i>	<i>6,486</i>	<i>2,959</i>	<i>2,319</i>	<i>523</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>nya</i>
<i>Chinook</i>							
Coho	24	63	15,765	5,649	560	473	nya
W. Sturgeon	1,129	965	25	12	0	3	nya
G. Sturgeon	28	4	0	0	0	0	nya

^a Site-specific landings may not be accurate due to mixing of the catch during some fishing periods. Data will be verified with fish tickets at a later date.

- Select Area landings to date are similar to preseason expectations.

Sturgeon Harvest

- Through September 8, a total of 4,325 white sturgeon (54% of the 8,000 commercial guideline) have been landed in 2005 commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), leaving 3,675 available for harvest. Carry-over of 183 unharvested white sturgeon from 2003-04 fisheries increases the available harvest to 3,858 fish.

<i>2005 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>		
<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Commercial Allocation = Guideline</u>	<u>8,000 Catch</u>
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,000	543
Select Area Gillnet (thru 9/8)	400	319
Summer season	^a	1,369
August Gillnet	2,600	2,094
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,600	0
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	4,325
	2005 Quota Remaining =	3,675
	Carry-over from 2003-04 =	183
	Total Quota Remaining =	3,858
^a Summer season included in 2,000 fish guideline for January-July fisheries		

Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Three weekly fishing periods were adopted in all of Zone 6 during August 22 through September 10. These periods occurred 4.5 days per week, with no mesh restriction in place until the week of Sept 6, when an 8-inch minimum was implemented.
- At the September 9 hearing, the Compact adopted an additional 4.5 days of fishing in all of Zone 6 during September 12-16 with an 8-inch minimum mesh requirement.
- Landings through September 10 are estimated at 51,041 Chinook (including 27,602 URBs), 7,054 steelhead (including 428 wild Group Bs), and 966 coho.
- Projected landings for the September 12-16 are expected to be with 44,900 Chinook (25,478 URBs) and 3,627 steelhead (314 wild Group B). and 1,363 coho
- The projected landings to date represent a 19.13% harvest rate on URBs and a 8.7% harvest rate on wild Group B steelhead.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

September Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>		
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:		
Season:	6 AM to 6 PM Monday September 19	(12 hours)
	6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday September 20	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3 (downstream of the Longview Bridge)	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A and Abernathy.	
Gear:	6-inch maximum mesh size unslackened floater gillnet	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of fifteen sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

<i>Recommendation</i>		
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:		
Season:	7 PM to midnight Monday September 19	(5 hours)
	7 PM to midnight Tuesday September 20	(5 hours)
	7 PM to midnight Thursday September 22	(5 hours)
Area:	Zones 3-5 (upstream of the Longview Bridge)	
Sanctuaries:	Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy, and Washougal rivers	
Gear:	8-inch minimum and 9 ¾-inch maximum mesh sizes	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of fifteen sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

<i>Recommendation</i>		
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:		
Season:	6 AM to 6 PM Thursday September 22	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3 (downstream of Longview Bridge)	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy, and Washougal rivers.	
Gear:	9 ¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of fifteen sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

Expected Catch: 9,000-11,000 chinook
 10,000-15,000 coho
 1,200-1,600 sturgeon

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.

- ✓ The proposed season provides an opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery-produced coho and chinook salmon.
- ✓ Restriction of fishery to large-mesh gear upstream of the Longview Bridge will minimize impacts on state-listed coho salmon.
- ✓ Goals of the fishery include:
 - Coho harvest of 25,000 which translates into 4-6 total fishing days.
 - Chinook target fishery- (goal cannot be met).
 - Opportunity to harvest the remaining sturgeon allocation without having to forego coho fishing time ie. choosing between small mesh or large mesh gear. Increase sturgeon harvest in September due to anticipated limited fishing opportunity in October.
 - No fishing on September 29 to facilitate Advisory Group meetings scheduled that day.
- ✓ Season structure during the second week is anticipated to be similar to the current recommendations except fishing will occur Monday-Wednesday.

Select Area Commercial

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends the sturgeon limit for all Select Areas be adjusted to match the 15-sturgeon limit proposed for the mainstem commercial fisheries.	

Treaty Indian Commercial

<i>Recommendation</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 19 to 6 PM Friday September 23	(4½ days)
Area:	All of Zone 6.	
Gear:	8" minimum mesh size restriction.	
Sanctuaries:	All standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries will be in effect. There will be a small Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary within a radius of 150 feet of the Spring Creek Hatchery fishway.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, coho, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon between four and five feet total length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and between 45"-60" in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.	
	The Quick Reporting rule will also be in effect for Washington Buyers.	

Following are the projected catches for the Treaty fishery proposal:

Fishery	Nets	Total Chinook Catch	URB Catch	Total Steelhead Catch	Wild B-Index Steelhead Catch
September 19-23	400	12,300	7,500	3,300	316
Total Cumulative Catch (Proj)		108,000	60,500	13,600	1,100

- Cumulative impacts to URBs through the recommended commercial gillnet opening are projected to be 21.89%, or 95% of the treaty allocation.
- Impacts to Wild Group B steelhead are projected to total 12.4% through the proposed fishing period shown above.

Impacts Summary

Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2005			
Fishery	Chinook	URB Impacts	
	Catch	No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	520	492	0.18%
Commercial through Sep 18 (Proj. Total)	95,478	53,080	18.96%
Commercial 19-23 (Proj. Total)	12,340	7,732	2.76%
Treaty Indian Total			21.89%
Non-Indian Fisheries			
Early August Commercial	4,707	87	0.03%
Mid-Late August Commercial	6,723	3,836	1.37%
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	10,670	490	0.18%
Buoy 10 Sport (Total)	9,300	2,250	0.80%
LCR Sport through Sep 17 (Proj. Total)	16,400	8,480	3.03%
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	1,330	1,120	0.40%
September Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	14,550	6,690	2.39%
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	590	160	0.06%
Non-Indian Total	64,270	23,113	8.25%
URB run Size		280,000	

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending that a Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled 10:00 AM September 23, at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (2108 Grand Blvd, Vancouver WA) for the purposes of updating salmon and steelhead stock status and considering additional treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River.